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KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 1943.

D.F. Dobson, M.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of Medical Officer of Health.

for Year ended December 31st, 1943

To the Chairman & Members of the Knaresborough Urban District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1943 which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, is brief and confined to changes in the conditions affecting the health of the Town, and to any special occurrence of disease. The observations of the Sanitary Inspector have been included in the Report.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D.F. DOBSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1944.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1943 is 7,834. To this must be added a number of evacuated persons and workers temporarily residing in the Town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births numbered 139 giving a birthrate of 17.7 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths numbered 97, giving a deathrate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the population.

The infantile deathrate under one year of age was 35.9 per 1,000 live births.

EVACUATION.

There are a small number of billeted persons in the Town. The evacuated persons are mainly accommodated in requisitioned houses.

The number billeted at private houses is 10.

HOUSING.

There has been no housing development during the year: recording and inspection of houses is not taking place, but it is clear that a considerable housing programme will be necessary when conditions permit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious disease has again been prevalent during the year.

There was an epidemic of measles in January and February, 140 cases being notified: there were no deaths.

Twenty cases of diphtheria were notified, but 16 of these occurred in the County Hospital at Knaresborough and 2 at the Scotton Banks Sanatorium.

Of the 2 Knaresborough cases, one was 27 years of age. The remaining case was in a child of 1 year of age who had been immunised. There were no deaths from diphtheria. Sixty two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at intervals during the year, there was no epidemic and no death. An epidemic of food poisoning which proved to be milk borne occurred during August. There were 162 cases notified and undoubtedly many others. There were no deaths in the Urban Area. This has been the subject of a special report to the Council and to the Ministry of Health.

There have been no cases of poliomyelitis, but one case of cerebro-spinal fever has occurred.

Systematic immunisation against diphtheria was continued during the year, the results were satisfactory and a high level of immunisation has been attained.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was equal to the number for the preceding year, but remains larger than the figure for the preceding years.

The number of cases of Scabies has remained small, regular treatment is being carried out at the First Aid Post under arrangements with the County Medical Officer.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Considerable changes in the organisation of the Casualty Services have taken place: the First Aid Parties have been absorbed in the Rescue Service and in the Transport Service the number of available vehicles has been greatly curtailed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

No alteration in the Sewage Disposal Works was made during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been constant and reliable. Clinical and bacteriological tests have been satisfactory.

SCOTTON MOOR DRAINAGE.

The Scotton Moor Drainage scheme has been satisfactory but has been clearly shown to be of a temporary nature only.

CAMPING SITES.

Five licensed camping sites are in the area, this type of holiday dwelling is becoming more numerous and strict control is necessary to prevent nuisance.

Steps have been taken to obtain the necessary power.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Registrations:	Retail purveyors	24.
	Wholesale traders	9.
	Farms and other premises used as dairies	16.
	Separate dairies.	3.

Sampling of milk under the National Milk Testing Scheme has gone on during the year with encouraging results.

GENERAL.

Sanitary inspection of the District is carried out well in spite of difficulties due to additional work, and on the whole the sanitary circumstances are satisfactory.

D.F. DOBSON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.